

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER SUBMARINE SQUADRON SIX
FPO, NEW YORK 09501

FCSS6:830
5700
Ser 10/ 187
29 FEB 1974

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

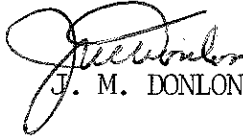
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Director of Naval History) (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History of Submarine Squadron SIX

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750-12A

Encl: (1) Chronology of Outstanding Events, 1973
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) COMSUBRON SIX Staff Organization Chart
(4) Squadron Roster - End of 1973
(5) Biography of Captain J. M. DONLON, COMSUBRON SIX

1. Reference (a) provides information concerning submission of command histories. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted. This history covers the calendar year 1973, and includes command history for Submarine Divisions SIXTY-ONE and SIXTY-TWO.


J. M. DONLON

Copy to:
COMSUBLANT
CINCLANTFLT (PAO)
Submarine Museum
Box 157
U. S. Naval Submarine Base

CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

1 APR 73: COMSUBDIV SIXTY-ONE was disestablished.

COMSUBDIV SIXTY-TWO was disestablished.

USS KITTIWAKE (ASR13), USS SKIPJACK (SSN585), USS SHARK (SSN591), USS FLYING FISH (SSN673), USS RAY (SSN653), and USS BLUEFISH (SSN675) were reassigned from COMSUBDIV SIXTY-ONE to COMSUBRON SIX.

USS LAPON (SSN661), USS SEA DEVIL (SSN664), USS SPADEFISH (SSN668), USS FINBACK (SSN670) were reassigned from COMSUBDIV SIXTY-TWO to COMSUBRON SIX.

14 JUL 73: USS ORTOLAN (ASR22) was commissioned.

15 NOV 73: USS SKIPJACK (SSN585) was reassigned to COMSUBRON TWO.

BASIC NARRATIVE

1. Command Organization and Relations.

a. The Commanders of Submarine Squadron SIX and Submarine Divisions SIXTY-ONE and SIXTY-TWO were:

- (1) COMSUBRON SIX - CAPT D. P. HALL, USN
1 JAN 73 - 13 APR 73
CAPT J. M. DONLON, USN
13 APR 73 - 31 DEC 73
- (2) COMSUBDIV SIXTY-ONE - CDR R. C. BILYEU, USN
1 JAN 73 - 1 APR 73
- (3) COMSUBDIV SIXTY-TWO - CAPT D. L. SELF, USN
1 JAN 73 - 1 APR 73

b. COMSUBRON SIX is homeported at Norfolk, Virginia and is embarked in USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS36).

c. The mission and function at Submarine Squadron SIX is to provide administrative and logistic support, maintain high standards of material and personnel readiness, strive for increased efficiency and vigorously pursue the improvement of submarine tactics and techniques in carrying out the following specific tasks:

- (1) Under COMSUBLANT exercise operational control of assigned ships.
- (2) Coordinate and schedule activities of material interest to SUBLANT Commands in local areas to achieve safety, economy and convenience.
- (3) Be prepared to assist COMSECONDFLT in the investigation of unidentified submarine contacts.
- (4) Schedule operations for forces assigned, including designating operational command, OTC and OCE for scheduled operations.
- (5) Maintain and promulgate to all interested Armed Forces Commanders a weekly schedule of local operations.

Enclosure (2)

(6) Originate and promulgate such area restrictions and safety regulations as may be required by local conditions.

(7) Represent the Force Commander in dealings with other commanders and civilian authorities in matters concerning local operations and administration.

(8) Organize and direct local submarine and search operations. Assume operational control of all local SUBLANT units when placing event SUBMISS/SUBSUNK in effect. Assume operational control of local SUBLANT units as necessary and provide SAR assistance to other Commanders as required during SAR operations involving units in distress other than submarines.

(9) Assign, coordinate and administer afloat training of Naval reservists on annual active duty for training. Assign and administer NROTC and Naval Academy Midshipmen indoctrination training as directed.

(10) When existing support facilities are unable to provide all required support, designate the relative priority of requests for logistics support to be provided by shore and afloat logistic agencies in the area to units of SUBLANT.

(11) Advise the Force Commander when inadequacy of logistic support provided SUBLANT units by support activities in the area is resulting in reduced force readiness.

(12) Plan and coordinate, with the local SOPA ADMIN, dispersal plans for Submarine Force Units.

(13) Act as COMSUBLANT's representative in dealing with the local Naval Shipyard and base in matters concerning administration of units present.

(14) Coordinate the use of available submarine training facilities and ensure that they are maintained in good operating condition.

(15) Plan for and be prepared to effect procedures designed to minimize the effectiveness of Soviet surface/air or submarine units to collect intelligence, harass or interfere with assigned units conducting local operations, or proceeding to and from patrol areas. Coordinate operations with local authorities in the event the escort of submarines or the conduct of anti-submarine search or sweep operations become necessary.

d. Composition of Command:

(1) Submarine Squadron was assigned the following ships at the end of 1973:

SUBMARINE SQUADRON SIX

<u>SHIP</u>	<u>COMMANDING OFFICER</u>
USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS36)	CAPT R. N. WILLIAMS, USN
USS KITTIWAKE (ASR13)	LCDR S. MCNEASE, JR., USN
USS ORTOLAN (ASR22)	LCDR R. W. RAMSAY, USN
USS SHARK (SSN591)	CDR J. M. VAN METRE, USN
USS RAY (SSN653)	CDR K. A. STRAHM, USN
USS LAPON (SSN661)	CDR G. E. GREEN, USN
USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN663)	LCDR T. J. CAMILLERI, USN
USS SEA DEVIL (SSN664)	CDR R. R. FOUNTAIN, JR., USN
USS SPADEFISH (SSN668)	CDR A. J. PERRY, USN
USS FINBACK (SSN670)	CDR C. D. STEVENSON, USN
USS BLUEFISH (SSN675)	CDR F. B. KELSO, II, USN
SSN L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN686)	CDR R. L. WOLFE, USN
SSN R. B. RUSSELL (SSN687)	CDR J. C. BRONS, USN
SSN LOS ANGELES (SSN688)	CDR J. E. CHRISTENSEN, JR., USN

e. Commissioning.

(1) USS ORTOLAN (ASR22) was commissioned on 14 July 1972.

f. The following administrative reassignment of ships took place in Submarine Squadron SIX.

(1) On 16 March 1973, the following submarine was administratively reassigned to COMSUBRON SIX upon completion of overhaul:

USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN663)	CDR P. F. CARTER, JR., USN
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(2) On 14 September 1973, the following submarine was reassigned to COMSUBRON TWO upon completion of overhaul:

USS SKATE (SSN578)	CDR R. M. EYCHISON, USN
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(3) On 9 October 1973, the following submarine was reassigned to COMSUBRON FOUR upon completion of overhaul:

USS SUNFISH (SSN649)	CDR W. I. MELTON, USN
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(4) On 15 November 1973, the following submarine was reassigned to COMSUBRON TWO:

USS SKIPJACK (SSN585) CDR G. R. STUBBS, USN

(5) On 15 November 1973 the following submarine was administratively reassigned to COMSUBRON TEN for overhaul:

USS FLYING FISH (SSN673) CDR J. D. WILLIAMS, USN

2. Operations or Activities.

a. Submarine Squadron SIX ships deployed to the SIXTH Fleet during 1973 as follows:

USS SEA DEVIL (SSN664)	1 JAN - 8 FEB
	15 OCT - 21 DEC
USS FINBACK (SSN670)	10 JAN - 28 JUN
USS RAY (SSN653)	27 FEB - 20 AUG
	26 OCT - 15 DEC
USS SKIPJACK (SSN585)	2 APR - 24 SEP
USS LAPON (SSN661)	8 MAY - 12 DEC
USS KITTIWAKE (ASR13)	27 JUN - 2 SEP
USS BLUEFISH (SSN675)	6 SEP - 31 DEC
USS SHARK (SSN591)	26 OCT - 31 DEC

b. Submarine Squadron SIX ships participated in extended exercises in the Atlantic during 1973 as follows:

USS BLUEFISH (SSN675)	1 JAN - 27 JAN
USS FLYING FISH (SSN673)	26 MAR - 29 MAY
	23 JUL - 5 OCT
USS FINBACK (SSN670)	11 OCT - 18 DEC

c. Submarine Squadron SIX ships participated in Exercise EXOTIC DANCER VI during 1973 as follows:

USS BLUEFISH (SSN675)	26 MAR - 7 APR
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d. Submarine Squadron SIX ships participated in Exercise LANTREDEX 3-73 during 1973 as follows:

USS SHARK (SSN591)	29 MAY - 10 JUN
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e. Submarine Squadron SIX ships participated in Exercise SEACONEX/TRANSLANT during 1973 as follows:

USS SHARK (SSN591)	10 JUN - 20 JUL
USS LAPON (SSN661)	10 JUN - 21 JUN
USS SPADEFISH (SSN668)	10 JUN - 30 JUN

f. Submarine Squadron SIX ships participated in Exercise DEEP FURROW-73 during 1973 as follows:

USS BLUEFISH (SSN675)	20 JUN - 30 JUN
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g. Submarine Squadron SIX ships participated in Exercise CANUSEX during 1973 as follows:

USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN663)	26 NOV - 6 DEC
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h. Submarine Squadron SIX ships participated in Exercise SUBASWEX 1-74 during 1973 as follows:

USS SEA DEVIL (SSN664)	9 OCT - 15 OCT
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i. Submarine Squadron SIX ships underwent extended shipyard periods during 1973 as follows:

(1) USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN663) - 1 JAN - 16 MAR - Regular overhaul. Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

(2) USS SKATE (SSN578) - 1 JAN - 14 SEP - Regular overhaul. Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia.

(3) USS SUNFISH (SSN649) - 1 JAN - 9 OCT - Regular overhaul. Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia.

(4) USS SPADEFISH (SSN668) - 4 SEP - 31 DEC - Regular overhaul. Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia.

3. Special Topics.

a. Ships of Submarine Squadron SIX winning intra-ship competitive awards in Fiscal Year 1972 were:

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BATTLE EFFICIENCY "E"

USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS36)
USS FLYING FISH (SSN673)
USS SEA DEVIL (SSN664)
USS KITTTWAKE (ASR13)

FIRE CONTROL EXCELLENCE "E"

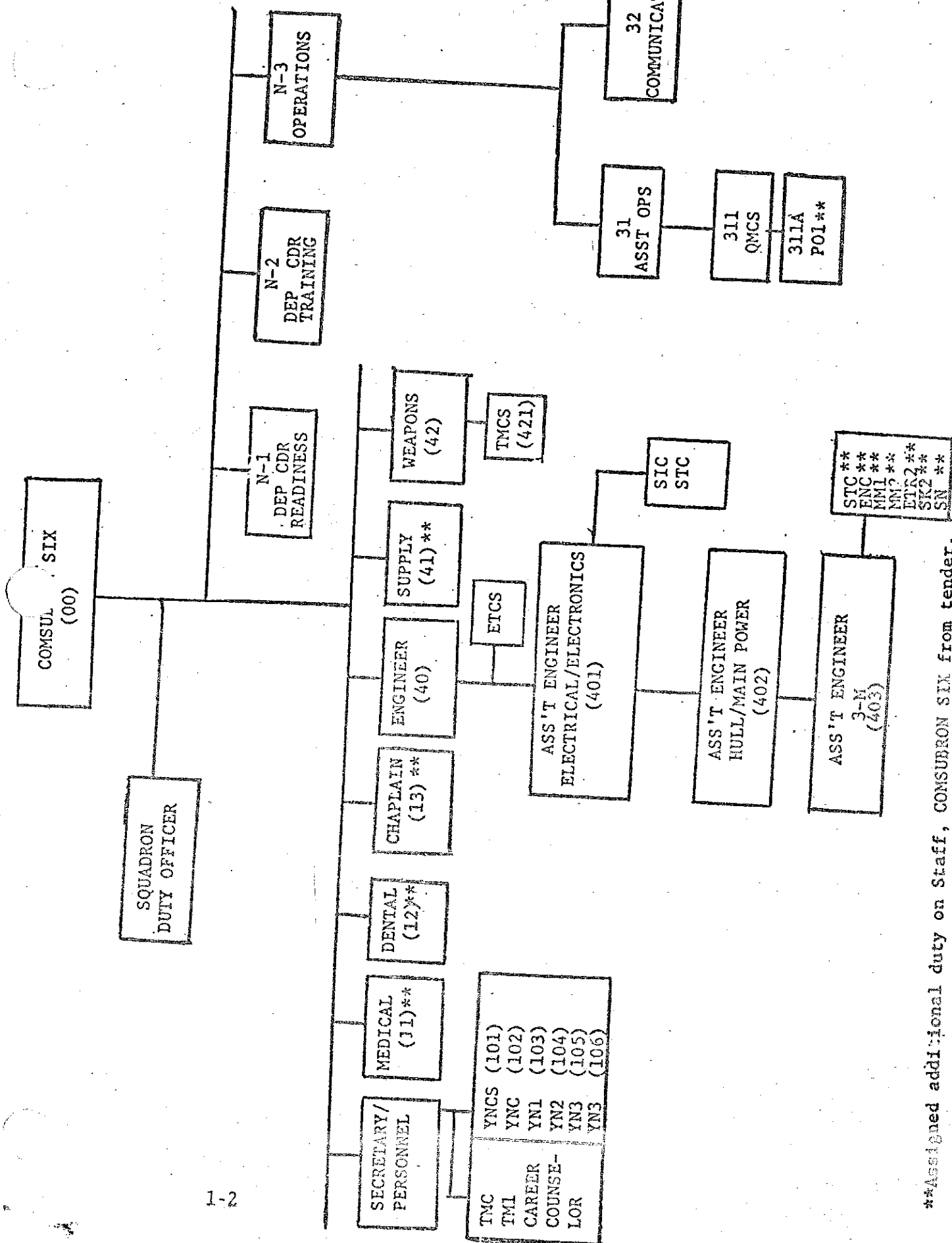
USS FLYING FISH (SSN673)
USS FINBACK (SSN670)

ENGINEERING "E"

USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS36)

b. Ships of Submarine Squadron SIX awarded the Navy Unit Commendation during 1973 were as follows:

USS SEA DEVIL (SSN664) CDR R. R. FOUNTAIN, JR, USN



**Assigned additional duty on Staff, COMSUBRON SIX from tender.

SUBMARINE SQUADRON SIX PERSONNEL ROSTER AT END OF 1973

OFFICER PERSONNEL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DUTY</u>
BANISTER, R. L., LT	ASST ENG/401
BERKHIMER, F. R., CDR	OPS/N3
BILYEU, R. C., CDR	DEP CDR TNG/N2
CAMPO, M. P., LTJG	COMM/32/ADDU
DONLON, J. M., CAPT	COMSUBRON SIX/00
GOODSON, J. B., Jr., LCDR	ASST ENG/402
GREENE, J. D., LTJG	PERS/SEC/10
LUTZ, D. P., CWO2	ASST ENG/403/ADDU
MOGART, J. A., LCDR	SUPPLY/41/ADDU
POORE, A. M., LCDR	WEPS/42
SIMONCIC, R., LT	MED/11/ADDU
SEELAND, A. D., CDR	CHAPLAIN/13/ADDU
SELF, D. L., CAPT	DEP CDR READ/N1
SHARPE, J. D., Jr., LCDR	ENG/40
WHISMAN, C. L., LT	ASST OPS/31

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DUTY</u>
BAILEY, N. W., YN1(SS)	PERS YN/103
BOSWELL, H. J., EM1	3M/TEMADD
BOLLING, D. R., TCM(SS)	SQD TM/421
CHEEK, H. B., YNCS(SS)	CSS6 YN/101
COWART, B. R., EMC(SS)	3M/TEMADD
CRAMPTON, T. L., YN1(SS)	SEC/CONF YN/104
DAVIS, W. M., NCC(SS)	CAREER COUNSELOR
HIGH, G. R., SKC	3M/TEMADD
HOLLIS, G. D., YNSN	CORRES YN/106
MARTIN, M. F., ETCM(SS)	ASST. EMO/401A
MEEKS, W. F., YNSN	3M/TEMADD
MORRISON, J. R., STCS(SS)	SIC
POWERS, F. R., QM1	OPS/311A
PYE, O. P., Jr., YNC(SS)	CSS6 YN/102
REDD, J. A., STC	3M/TEMADD
SMITH, J. R., YN3	TYPIST/105
SNOWMAN, E. A., Jr., QMCM(SS)	CSS6 QM/311

BIOGRAPHY OF CAPTAIN JOHN M. DONLON, USN, COMSUBRON SIX

Captain John M. DONLON, a native of (b) (6) New York, attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute prior to entering the Naval Academy, from which he was graduated in 1949. He served aboard the destroyers VOGELGESANG and PUTNAM before attending Submarine School in 1952. After tours in the submarines SENNET and SEA DOG, he returned to Submarine School in 1956 as an instructor in the Officer Course for two years.

Captain DONLON resumed sea duty in 1958 in USS BANG and a year later became Executive Officer of the USS HALFBEAK. Completion of the Advanced Nuclear Power Course at New London in 1960 was followed by training at the prototype reactor at Windsor, Connecticut and at the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory, Pittsburgh. He then reported as Executive Officer of TINOSA, building at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

He assumed command of USS SHARK in 1963. While in command of SHARK, he was awarded the Legion of Merit and the ship received the Navy Unit Commendation. During his tenure, SHARK was also awarded the Marjorie Sterret Battleship Fund Award as first in battle efficiency in the Atlantic Fleet. Upon detachment from SHARK in late 1965, he attended the Polaris Command Course at Dam Neck, Virginia. He commanded USS WOODROW WILSON from March 1966 to May 1968.

Captain DONLON commanded Submarine Division FORTY-TWO from July 1968 to July 1969. Upon completion of this tour, he served in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, where he was Head, SSN Program Coordination Branch. Prior to reporting as Commander Submarine Squadron SIX in April 1973, he was Commanding Officer of the Submarine Tender USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS36) in Norfolk, Virginia, in which he served from August 1971 to June 1973. As Commanding Officer of the SPEAR, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Captain DONLON is married to the former (b) (6) of (b) (6), Pennsylvania. They have seven children. One son is a Midshipman at the Naval Academy, Class of 1974 and another is a NROTC student at the University of Louisville in the Class of 1976. A third son is a midshipman candidate at the Naval Academy Preparatory School.